

The Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, v. CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, Defendant.	NO. CR24-138 RSM STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
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This matter, having come to the Court’s attention on the parties’ stipulated motion for entry of a discovery protective order, and the Court, having considered the motion, and being fully advised in this matter, hereby enters the following PROTECTIVE ORDER:

1. **Protected Material.** For purposes of this Order, “Protected Materials” shall include sensitive materials that disclose personal identifying information (“PII”)¹

¹ “PII” includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the information identified in Fed. R. Crim. P. 49.1(a) and includes full names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers (or other identification information), financial account information (including account numbers), tax information, driver’s license numbers, addresses, telephone numbers, locations of residences or employment, medical records, school records, juvenile criminal records, and other confidential information. The government has endeavored to redact PII as appropriate, but the parties acknowledge

obtained during the investigation, including but not limited to: personal information about witnesses, victims, and third parties, and other sensitive information obtained during the investigation (collectively, the “Protected Material”). Any produced Grand Jury transcripts will be considered Protected Material without further designation by the government. It also includes autopsy photos, photos of the deceased victim *in situ*, and photos of any living victim. Other information believed by the government to be Protected Material will be so designated by the government. Said material may include, but is not limited to, information related to the victim, witnesses, and third parties, criminal history reports, autopsy reports, data contained on personal devices belonging to crime victims, and related *Giglio* impeachment materials.

2. **Production of Protected Material to the Defense.** The United States will make available copies of the Protected Materials, including those filed under seal, to defense counsel to comply with the government’s discovery obligations. Possession of copies of the Protected Materials is limited to attorneys of record and investigators, paralegals, law clerks, experts, and assistants for the attorneys of record (hereinafter collectively referred to as “members of the defense team”). Further, the attorney(s) of record are required, prior to disseminating any copies of the Protected Materials to members of the defense team, to provide a copy of this Protective Order to members of the defense team and obtain their agreement to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Protective Order.

3. **Review of Protected Material by Defendant.** The attorneys of record and members of the Defendant’s defense team may share and review the Protected Material with the Defendant. If the Defendant resides at the Federal Detention Center (FDC), he will be permitted to review the Protected Material, consistent with the regulations established by the BOP for such material, with or without his counsel in a controlled

and agree that this will not always be possible, and that in some instances un-redacted PII may be necessary to the defense.

1 environment at the FDC, but will be prohibited from printing out, copying, or
2 disseminating the material. If the Defendant is on pretrial release, he will be permitted to
3 review the Protected Material at the office of his counsel, or via a video conference call,
4 but will be prohibited from printing out, copying, or disseminating the material.

5 **4. Limits on Dissemination of Protected Materials.** The attorney(s) of
6 record and members of the defense team acknowledge that providing copies of the
7 Protected Material to the Defendant and other persons is prohibited and agree not to
8 duplicate or provide copies of the Protected Material to Defendant and other persons.
9 This order does not limit employees of the United States Attorney's Office for the
10 Western District of Washington from disclosing the Protected Material to members of the
11 United States Attorney's Office, federal law enforcement agencies, witnesses, and the
12 Court. Nor does this order limit employees of the United States Attorney's Office for the
13 Western District of Washington from disclosing the Protected Material to defense
14 counsel as necessary to comply with the government's discovery obligations.

15 **5. Future Production of Additional Protected Materials.** Additional types
16 of discovery items may be deemed by the parties to constitute Protected Material upon
17 agreement, or (if no agreement can be reached) by further order of the Court.

18 **6. No Waiver.** Nothing in this order should be construed as imposing any
19 substantive discovery obligations on the government that are different from those
20 imposed by case law and Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The
21 failure to designate any materials as provided in paragraph 2 shall not constitute a waiver
22 of a party's assertion that the materials are covered by this Protective Order.

23 **7. Use of Protected Material in Court.** Any Protected Material that is filed
24 with the Court in connection with pre-trial motions, trial, or other matter before this
25 Court, shall be filed under seal and shall remain sealed until otherwise ordered by this
26 Court. This does not entitle either party to seal their filings as a matter of course. The
27 parties are required to comply in all respects with the relevant local and federal rules of
28 criminal procedure pertaining to the sealing of court documents.

1 8. **Non-Termination.** The provisions of this Order shall not terminate at the
2 conclusion of this prosecution. Furthermore, at the close of this case, defense counsel
3 shall return the Protected Material, including all copies of the Protected Material, to the
4 office of the United States Attorney, or otherwise certify that the material has been
5 destroyed.

6 9. **Violation of Order.** Any person who willfully violates this order may be
7 held in contempt of court and may be subject to monetary or other sanctions as deemed
8 appropriate by this Court.

9 10. **Modification of Order.** Nothing in this Protective Order shall prevent any
10 party from seeking modification of this Order or from objecting to discovery that it
11 believes to be otherwise improper. The parties agree that, in the event that compliance
12 with this Order makes it difficult for defense counsel to adhere to their Sixth Amendment
13 obligations, or otherwise imposes an unworkable burden on counsel, defense counsel
14 shall bring any concerns about the terms of the Order to the attention of the government.
15 The parties shall then meet and confer with the intention of finding a mutually acceptable
16 solution. In the event that the parties cannot reach such a solution, defense counsel shall
17 have the right to bring any concerns about the scope or terms of the Order to the attention
18 of the Court by way of a motion.

19 11. **Agreement to Provide Copies of Protected Material to Defendants.**
20 Upon agreement of counsel for the government, members of a defense team may provide
21 copies of specific Protected Material, or redacted versions of such material, to the
22 Defendant. When seeking the government's agreement to give such a copy to the
23 Defendant, members of the defense team will identify with reasonable particularity,
24 including (where available) the specific bates numbered pages and or recording
25 descriptions, the specific material defense counsel proposes to give to the Defendant.
26 Unless expressly stated otherwise by the government, copies of Protected Material to be
27 provided to the Defendant will continue to be Protected Material subject to all of the
28 protections of the Court's Order, with the sole exception that a copy can be given only to

1 the Defendant (and not shared with anyone else outside the defense team). If counsel for
2 the government and counsel for the Defendant cannot reach agreement on whether
3 particular portions of the Protected Material or redacted versions of Protected
4 Material should be given to the Defendant under these conditions, defense counsel may
5 raise the issue with the Court by way of a motion.

6 12. **No Ruling on Discoverability or Admissibility.** This Protective Order
7 does not constitute a ruling on the question of whether any particular material is properly
8 discoverable or admissible and does not constitute any ruling on any potential objection
9 to the discoverability of any material.

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1 13. **No Ruling on Timing of Production.** This Protective Order does not
2 require the government to provide particular discovery at a time or in a fashion
3 inconsistent with applicable law.

4 The Clerk of the Court is directed to provide a filed copy of this Protective Order
5 to all counsel of record.

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7 DATED this 4th day of September, 2024.

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11 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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14 Presented by:

15
16 s/ Stephen Hobbs

17 Stephen Hobbs

18 Mike Lang

19 Assistant United States Attorneys

20 Reviewed and Approved:

21 s/ Rachel Forde

22 Rachel Forde

23 Counsel for Christopher Johnson
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